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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 06 KABUL 1466

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO;
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, JIM BRUNO; THE HAGUE FOR
A-DAM AND R-DAM

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REVIEWED by John Kelly DATE 4/25/89

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TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP PHUM PINR, PINS, PROP, SREF, ASEC, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (AUGUST 17-23)

REF: KABUL 1438

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE BRIEFED TO JOURNALISTS EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED. (NOTE TO BRIEFERS IN ISLAMABAD, PESHAWAR AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING ON SUMMARIES AND SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM PARAS 4 AND 5.)

3. SUMMARY:

A. TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: THE SOVIETS AND THE REGIME REPORTEDLY ARE SEEKING AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS WITH THE MUJAHIDIN IN ORDER TO GAIN THE RELEASE OF SOVIETS CAPTURED IN THE RECENT CAMPAIGN NORTH OF KABUL. MEANWHILE, REPORTS CLAIM THAT SHAKADARA, WHERE FIGHTING CONTINUES, HAS BEEN LARGELY DESTROYED. AFGHAN REPORTS AND DIPLOMATS' OBSERVATIONS INDICATE EXTENSIVE AERIAL AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT IN THE PAGHMAN AREA WHERE THE MUJAHIDIN NONETHELESS ARE CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITIONS. NORMAL TRAFFIC HAS RESUMED ON THE SALANG HIGHWAY AFTER A LANDSLIDE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED TRAFFIC ON THE ROUTE. THE SEVERING OF THE KEY SUPPLY LINE FROM THE SOVIET BORDER CAUSED A PROTRACTED SHORTAGE OF AVIATION FUEL AT KABUL AIRPORT. FIGHTING AROUND AND IN KANDAHAR CONTINUES THOUGH AT A REDUCED LEVEL. FIGHTING IS ALSO REPORTED IN WARDAK AND PAKTIA.

B. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: THE DRA'S SUMMER DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE APPEARS TO BE WINDING DOWN WITH ENVOYS SOON TO RETURN. AMONG UNANTICIPATED REGIME DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSSES WAS A RECENT WARM INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE FROM PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT AQUINO TO NAJIB. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS SERIOUS CONCERN AT SENIOR REGIME LEVELS THAT MUJAHIDIN, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS WHO DISINGENUOUSLY RALLIED TO THE REGIME, MAY ATTACK THE CAPITAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE. A KANDAHAR RESIDENT CLAIMS SOVIET FORCES RECENTLY USED LETHAL CBW AGAINST MUJAHIDIN POSITIONS NEAR KANDAHAR. END SUMMARY.

4. KABUL PYROTECHNICS AND SECURITY:

WHILE KABUL WAS RELATIVELY QUIET, ALMOST NIGHTLY BOMBARDMENTS TO THE NORTH AND WEST BELIED THE TRANQUILITY. SOVIET FORCES ALONG PERIMETER ROAD ONE NIGHT FIRED ON UNKNOWN TARGETS INSIDE THE KABUL BASIN. KABUL RESIDENTS REPORTED SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS, PRESUMABLY CAUSED BY BOMBS OR INCOMING ROCKETS. DIPLOMATS HEARD AND SAW THE FOLLOWING:

--AUGUST 17: AN UNLOCATED EXPLOSION AT 0300; LIKELY

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ARTILLERY IMPACTS TO THE SOUTHEAST AND BOMBING OR ARTILLERY/ROCKET BOMBARDMENT IN THE PAGHMAN AREA TO THE WEST.

--AUGUST 18: OUTGOING ARTILLERY TO THE NORTHWEST FROM 2130 TO 0200 (AUGUST 19) AND AN EXPLOSION AT 2300 TO THE NORTH.

--AUGUST 19: SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS AT 0130; OPERATIONS OF A POWERFUL SEARCH BEAM FROM BIBI MARU HILL WHICH RAKED OVER KABUL FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES.

--AUGUST 20: AT 0400 SMALL ARMS FIRE IN SHARE NAU AND AGAIN IN THE EVENING IN KARTE PARWAN; AT 2115 FLASHES OF EXPLODING ORDNANCE IN THE DIRECTION OF PAGHMAN?YD BRIE??TRACER FIRE VISIBLE IN KHAIR KHANA PASS. BEGINNING IN THE EVENING AND CONTINUING THROUGH MUCH OF THE WENK, TWO SOVIET BTR'S WERE POSITIONED IN THE OLD MICRORAYON.

--AUGUST 21: BETWEEN 1945 AND 2030 INTERMITTENT HEAVY MACHINE GUN FIRE FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE AIRFORT; AN EXPLOSION AT 2130.

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--AUGUST 23: AT APPROXIMATELY 0130, ONE (POSSIBLY SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS, PROBABLY INCOMING ROCKETS.

A. AIR MOVEMENT:

-- AUGUST 23: TWO IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED

TRACKED (ARMORED) VEHICLES FROM THE SALANG TO KARGHA ROAD AT 1100; AND 25 VEHICLES, MANY TOWING 122 MM HOWITZERS, AT 1630 STAGED NORTH ON THE SALANG.

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--AUGUST 20: AT 0640 FUEL TRUCKS STAGED NORTH ON THE SALANG.
--AUGUST 21: OVER 20 SOVIET TRUCKS (UNIT ID 1312) MOVING
OFF PERIMETER ROAD NORTH ON THE SALANG.
--AUGUST 22: OVER 50 SOVIET TRUCKS AND FUEL TANKERS, WITHOUT
ARMOR ESCORT, MOVING OFF PERIMETER ROAD HEADED EAST ON
JALALABAD ROAD AT 0535; A SOVIET FUEL CONVOY (EMPTY)
NORTHBOUND ON SALANG ROAD AT 0545, MERGING WITH A MIXED COLUMN OF
TRUCKS (UNIT ID 145) AND ARMOR ALSO NORTHBOUND; AT 0550
JRA FUEL TRUCKS ESCORTED BY ARMOR STAGED NORTH ON THE
SALANG IN DEH KEPAK; AT 0635 A JRA CONVOY OF FUEL TRUCKS
IN EXCEPTIONALLY POOR CONDITION MOVING WEST ON PERIMETER ROAD
IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SALANG.

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--AUGUST 23: AT 0520 A DRA PATROL OF ARMORED VEHICLES
AND TRUCKS, EACH LOADED WITH DRA TROOPS, MOVING FROM SOUTH
KABUL TO PERIMETER ROAD (WESTBOUND).

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6. KABUL PROVINCE (SEE PARA'S 4, 5 FOR KABUL CITY DEVELOPMENTS): FIGHTING IN NORTHERN KABUL (THE SHOMALI) CONTINUED THOUGH AT A SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED LEVEL FROM THAT DURING THE AUGUST 7-15 SOVIET CAMPAIGN IN THE REGION. MULTIPLE REPORTS INDICATED SOVIET MISCONDUCT IN A VILLAGE LED TO SOVIET DEATHS AND RETALIATORY BOMBING OF THE VILLAGE. IN THE WEST, ALMOST NIGHTLY BOMBING IN THE PAGHMAN AREA APPEARS TO HAVE HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON A STRENGTHENING MUJAHIDIN POSITION IN THE REGION.

A. KABUL - NORTH: ACCORDING TO THREE AFGHAN SOURCES, SOVIET TROOPS STATIONED AT BAGRAM AIR BASE ATTEMPTED TO INTRUDE AT A TRADITIONAL WEDDING CEREMONY IN A VILLAGE NEAR THE BASE ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 14, REPORTEDLY SEEKING AFGHAN FEMALES TO BRING TO THE BASE FOR ENTERTAINMENT. MUJAHIDIN IN THE AREA WERE ALERTED TO THE SOVIET PRESENCE AND ATTACKED THE TROOPS, KILLING AND WOUNDING SEVERAL. FOLLOWING THE RETREAT OF THE SOVIETS TO THEIR BASE, THE VILLAGE WAS BOMBED. A SEPARATE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIETS WERE AIDED IN THE VILLAGE INITIALLY BY KHAL FACTION TROOPS WHO SUBSEQUENTLY WERE ATTACKED BY DRA TROOPS LOYAL TO THE PARCHAM FACTION OF THE PARTY. THERE ARE ALSO MULTIPLE-SOURCE, CONSISTENT REPORTS CONFIRMING EARLIER ACCOUNTS (PARA 6A, REFTEL) THAT JUST PRIOR TO THE LAUNCHING OF THE SOVIETS' SHOMALI CAMPAIGN, MUJAHIDIN CAPTURED UP TO 30 SOVIET TROOPS, INCLUDING SENIOR OFFICERS, IN AN ATTACK ON A SOVIET POST NEAR SHAKADARA. IN THE ATTACK THE SOVIET/DRA TROOPS SUFFERED APPROXIMATELY 100 CASUALTIES AND LOST SIX TANKS. A USUALLY RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIETS AND DRA HAVE OFFERED AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS, INCLUDING THE CAPTURED SOVIETS, BUT THAT THE MUJAHIDIN THUS FAR HAVE NOT RESPONDED. AS OF AUGUST 21 REPORTS INDICATED THAT FIGHTING WAS CONTINUING IN THE SHAKADARA AREA WHERE SOVIET FORCES AT LEAST INITIALLY DEPLOYED TANKS AND OTHER ARMORED VEHICLES ALONG THE ROAD IN FIRING POSITIONS (AS THEY DID ALONG THE SALANG HIGHWAY - PARA 6A REFTEL). ADDITIONAL DETAILS CONTINUING TO REACH KABUL PROVIDE SOME SENSE OF THE INTENSITY OF THE AUGUST 7-15 SIGHTING: AN AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT 70 TO 80 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN FIGHTING NEAR BAGRAM AIR BASE; IN THE QARABAGH AREA, 80 SOVIET AND DRA TROOPS DIED WHILE MUJAHIDIN LOST 9 KILLED. RECENO REPORTS CORROBORATE EARLIER ACCOUNTS (REFTEL OF APPROXIMATELY 20 SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES BEING DESTROYED IN THE FIGHTING AROUND VARABAGH. RECENT REPORTS ALSO CLAIM THAT THE TOWN OF SHAKADARA WAS VIRTUALLY DESTROYED IN THE SOVIET BOMBARDMENT.

B. KABUL - WEST: DIPLOMATS OBSERVED NEARLY NIGHTLY EXPLOSIONS IN THE PAGHMAN AREA, SUBSTANTIATING NUMEROUS AFGHAN REPORTS OF EXTENSIVE NIGHT BOMBING THERE. ONE AFGHAN SOURCE WITH MUJAHIDIN TIES CLAIMS THAT THE NIGHT BOMBING REFLECTS SOVIET FEAR OF MUJAHIDIN SAM CAPABILITY. (COMMENT: APPARENT SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE

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REDUCED BOMBING ACCURACY ASSOCIATED WITH NIGHT BOMBING AS A TRADE-OFF SUGGESTS CLAIMS OF SOVIET FEAR OF A MUJAHIDIN SAM THREAT ARE ACCURATE.) AFGHANS REPORTED AERIAL BOMBING WAS PARTICULARLY INTENSE ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17-18. (DIPLOMATS OBSERVED THIS BOMBING AS WELL AS EARLY EVENING MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER VOLLEYS FIRED FROM KHAIR KHANA TOWARD PAGHMAN.) AFGHANS REPORT INTENSE FIGHTING IN THE CHANDAL BAI AREA SOUTH OF PAGHMAN TOWN AUGUST 19. A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS MUJAHIDIN CONTINUE TO MOVE INTO THE PAGHMAN AREA, PARTICULARLY THE BEKTUT AREA. ELSEWHERE, A TRAVELER REPORTS THAT ON AUGUST 12 SOVIET-MUJAHIDIN FIGHTING WHICH STRADDLED THE ROAD IN THE DURANI AREA (34°17'N 68°49'E) BLOCKED TRAFFIC ON THE KABUL-GHAZNI ROAD FOR SEVERAL HOURS.

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7. KANDAHAR: A KANDAHARI CLAIMS THAT AS OF MID-AUGUST
FIGHTING THERE HAD DIMINISHED THOUGH CLASHES CONTINUED
IN MALAJAT AND KOUBI (SOUTH OF MALAHAT) AND INSIDE
KANDAHAR AT NIGHT. HE JUDGED MUJAHIDIN IN THE KANDAHAR AREA

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WERE "100 PERCENT" STRONGER THAN A YEAR AGO, NOTING THAT THE REGIME ONLY CONTROLLED THE SHAR NAU AREA OF THE CITY. A SEPARATE KANDAHARI NOTED THAT ONLY THREE BAZAARS CONTINUE TO FUNCTION UNDER REGIME CONTROL. THE LATTER ESTIMATED THE KANDAHAR POPULATION TO BE AROUND 30,000. THE FIRST SOURCE BELIEVED THERE HAD BEEN NO CUBANS IN THE KANDAHAR AREA FOR ONE TO TWO YEARS.

8. PARWAN: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT, SOURCING A RECENT TRAVELER, STAT THAT A LANDSLIDE AT WOLANG (35°16'N 69°07'E) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A DISRUPTION OF TRAFFIC ON THE SALANG THROUGH MID-AUGUST (SEE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS, PARA 13). AS OF AUGUST 19 SOVIET WORK CREWS HAD BLASTED A DETOUR THROUGH THE LANDSLIDE LARGE ENOUGH FOR SMALL TRUCKS TO PASS.

9. LARDAK: A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT AIRCRAFT BOMBED THE TOWN OF JALEZE ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, DESTROYING SIX HOUSES. ON JULY 18 MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A SOVIET POST AT NEARBY MAIDAN, KILLING 12 SOVIETS.

10. HERAT: A REGULAR AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT IN JULY LOCAL SELF-DEFENSE FORCES REFUSED TO ENGAGE LOCAL MUJAHIDIN FORCES AND INSTEAD TURNED THEIR GUNS ON SOVIET TROOPS IN THE AREA, KILLING OVER A SCORE. AS A RESULT, KABUL REPORTEDLY DIRECTED THAT MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEFENSE OF HERAT BE GIVEN TO REGULAR DRA FORCES (ARMY, SARANDOI AND "KHAD") AND LESS TO LOCAL MILITIA.

11. PAKTIA: AN AFGHAN REPORTS THE ARRIVAL IN KABUL ON AUGUST 15-16 OF MANY DEAD AND WOUNDED DRA TROOPS FROM RECENT FIGHTING IN THE GARDEZ AREA. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT OF TWO HELICOPTERS RECENTLY DISPATCHED TO SHAMAL (33°18'N 69°34'E) TO RETRIEVE DEAD AND WOUNDED, ONE WAS UNABLE TO TAKE OFF AFTER LANDING. GUARD FORCES HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE SITE AS REPAIRS ARE ATTEMPTED ON THE STRANDED CRAFT. AN AFGHAN REPORT CLAIMS THAT THE RECENT DOWNING OF AN AN-26 AIRCRAFT NEAR KHOST CAUSED CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THE 15 CASUALTIES CLAIMED BY THE REGIME (PARA 21C, REFTEL) AND THAT ALL PASSENGERS WERE MILITARY.

12. BAGHLAN: A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE OF UNDETERMINED REPORTING ACCURACY CLAIMS THAT IN MID-AUGUST A 100-MAN DEFENSE UNIT DEFECTED TO THE MUJAHIDIN.

13. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

-- AVIATION FUEL SHORTAGE: SINCE AUGUST 4, THE TWICE-WEEKLY INDIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT TO KABUL HAS BEEN UNABLE TO REFUEL IN KABUL. THIS, PLUS THE NOT PREVIOUSLY NOTED SHIPMENT OF FUEL BY AIR (AN-12) FIRST OBSERVED AUGUST 4 AND SINCE INDICATES SIGNIFICANT FUEL SHORTAGES AT KABUL AIRPORT. AFGHAN AND EAST EUROPEAN-SOURCED REPORTS

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OF A BLOCKAGE OF FUEL SHIPMENTS VIA THE SALANG
APPEAR TO BE SUBSTANTIATED ON THE BASIS OF
EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF A MAJOR LANDSLIDE AT
WOLANG (SEE PARA 87 ABOVE) WHICH APPARENTLY BLOCKED
FUEL SHIPMENTS TO POINTS SOUTH.

B. ROAD SECURITY: A TRAVELER REPORTS THAT BETWEEN KABUL
AND KANDAHAR SOVIET AND DRA FORCES MAN 15 CHECK POINTS WHILE
MUJAHIDIN MAN SEVEN. (COMMENT: OTHER TRAVELERS HAVE
OBSERVED THAT SOVIET AND DRA CHECK POINTS ARE LARGELY IN
TOWNS.) A SEPARATE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THE ONLY SOVIET
CHECK POINT BETWEEN KABUL AND GHAZNI IS AT
THE FORK TO MAIDAN SHAR (34°23'N 68°51'E).

C. BOMB DISCOVERED: AN AFGHAN REPORTS ON AUGUST 18
REGIME SECURITY FORCES REMOVED A BOMB FROM THE DEFENSE
MINISTRY JUST PRIOR TO A MEETING OF SENIOR PARTY AND
REGIME OFFICIALS.

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RULLAAA/DIA REP SAC OFFUTT AFB NE

RUEALGX/SAFE

O 240545Z AUG 87

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 3911

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 5613

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6955

INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1735

RUFHCH/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1917

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1376

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUHGHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFGAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLSNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

RUFHSHH/USDOCSOUTH NAPLES IT

RUEOAYB/FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10GXCMI//

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 06 KABUL 1466

U. MILITARY FUNERAL: ON AUGUST 20 DIPLOMATS OBSERVED
A LARGE MILITARY FUNERAL WHICH DREW SIX BUSLOADS OF DRA
ARMY AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TO THE BLUE MOSQUE IN THE "OLD
TOWN."

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14. HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS: SOVIET COMMITS SUICIDE: ON AUGUST 17 THE SOVIET SOLDIER WHO STRANGLED ONE BOY AND SHOT ANOTHER (PARA 22, REFTEL) REPORTEDLY KILLED HIMSELF WITH A SHOT TO THE HEAD AS HE WAS BEING PURSUED FROM THE SCENE BY REGIME POLICE AND LOCAL PEOPLE. ALL ASPECTS OF THE REFTEL REPORT HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED EXCEPT FOR A CLAIM BY SOME AT THE SCENE THAT TWO SOVIET SOLDIERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT.

15. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: TECHNICAL LEVEL OFFICIALS HAVE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING FIGURES FOR POPULATIONS OF HERAT, KUNDOZ AND CHARIKAR AND THEIR ENVIRONS UNDER REGIME CONTROL: HERAT, 85-115,000; KUNDOZ, 95-110,000 AND CHARIKAR, 55-60,000.

16. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS: THE AFGHANI-DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE IS CURRENTLY ONE DOLLAR BUYS 173 AFGHANIS.

17. KABUL MEDIA:

A. PROVINCIAL PARTY CONFERENCES CONVENED: IN PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND NATIONAL POPA PARTY CONFERENCE (REPORTEDLY TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER) THE PARTY HAS CONVENED PROVINCIAL PARTY CONFERENCES TO "ELECT" DELEGATES. NAJIB ATTENDED THE KANDAHAR CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 21 DURING A ONE DAY VISIT TO KANDAHAR CITY. HE WAS ELECTED A DELEGATE.

B. BARYALAI LOSES ANOTHER POSITION: ACCORDING TO A RECENT KABUL MEDIA REPORT, THE ASSOCIATION OF SOVIET GRADUATES IN AFGHANISTAN ELECTED A NEW HEAD IN AN EARLY AUGUST MEETING, DISPLACING ALTERNATE POLITBURO MEMBER MAHMOUD BARYALAI, A BABRAK KARMAL LOYALIST. HIS GRADUAL ECLIPSE FOLLOWS THAT OF THE OTHER PRINCIPAL PARTY KARMALITE, FORMER POLITBURO MEMBER ANAHITA RATEBZAD. WHILE THE GRADUATES ORGANIZATION IS NOT A PROMINENT ONE, HIS REPLACEMENT CONTINUES A SLIDE NOTED WHEN NAJMUDDIN KAYANI REPLACED HIM AS HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE POPA, FIRST NOTED JUNE 10.

C. NEW MINISTRY CREATED: THE AUGUST 15 POLITBURO SESSION ESTABLISHED A NEW MINISTRY OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, ELEVATING THE VOCATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

D. DISCREPANCY IN NUMBER OF RETURNEES CLAIMED BY REGIME: IN AN AUGUST 19 SPEECH, NAJIB STATED THAT "OVER 70,000" REFUGEES HAD RETURNED FROM ABROAD IN RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PROGRAM. AN ARTICLE IN KABUL NEW TIMES ON AUGUST 22 PUT THE NUMBER AT 66,367. FOR OVER ONE MONTH THE "600Y COUNT" WHICH HAD BEEN SLOWLY INCREASING SINCE JANUARY 15 HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN THE KABUL MEDIA. ALTHOUGH A NEW MINISTRY FOR REPATRIATES WAS ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 25, 1987, THE ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED IN RECENT MEDIA STORIES AS HAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPATRIATES IS STILL THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR REPATRIATES WHICH SUGGESTS THE NEW MINISTRY

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MAY BE HAVING ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS.

3. CORRUPTION IN "ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE"

KABUL MEDIA REPORT THAT ON AUGUST 15 THE POLITBURO AGAIN CONSIDERED PROBLEMS OF CORRUPTION IN THE "ATTORNEY GENERAL DEPARTMENT" OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. THE POLITBURO CRITICIZED EFFORTS TO HALT "MISUSE, BRIBERY, MISAPPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER NEGATIVE PHENOMENA" IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE. THESE LONGSTANDING PROBLEMS HAVE RECEIVED MUCH PUBLICITY DURING THE LAST YEAR. FOUR OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT WHO ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE PARTY WERE DISCIPLINED BY EITHER BEING RELIEVED OF THEIR POSITIONS OR GIVEN WARNINGS.

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INFO RUEADWD/PTC WASH DC

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RULWIOC/HQ SAC OFFUTT AFB NE//INOO//

RUEDBIA/CDR513THMIGP FT MONMOUTH NJ//IAM-IC-O//

RHCGSRB/CONUSARCENT FT MCPHERSON GA//AFRO-OSO//

RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

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RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUMGHOA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFCAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFCAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IUM//

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RUCLSLA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

RUFHSHH/USJOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

RUEOATB/FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO/CM//

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18. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

- PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE:

KABUL PRINT MEDIA AUGUST 23 ACCORDED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE

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TO A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO NAJIB FROM CORAZON AQUINO ON THE OCCASION OF THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE. THE LETTER TO NAJIB (WHO IS NOT HEAD OF STATE AND IN FACT HOLDS NO REGIME POSITION OTHER THAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES) WAS THE ONLY NON-BLUC MESSAGE EXCEPT FOR ONE FROM LEBANESE PRESIDENT AMAYEL.

B. DRA DIPLOMATIC FORAYS: KABUL MEDIA REPORT THAT REGIME REPRESENTATIVES HAVE VISITED LIBYA, MALTA, TOGO, THE MALAGASY DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND INDONESIA. IN INDONESIA THE DRA ENVOYS REPORTEDLY HAD TALKS WITH "THE LEADING BOODIES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS." SEPARATELY, AN MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER SAID THAT THE VISITS HAD BEEN "GENERALLY A SUCCESS" AND NOTED THAT MOST OF THE ENVOYS ARE NOW ON THEIR WAY HOME.

C. MUJAHIDIN TO ATTACK KABUL?: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT QUOTES AN AFGHAN CONTACT AS CLAIMING THAT MUJAHIDIN, WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH "FORMER" MUJAHIDIN IN THE CITY WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE DEFECTED TO THE REGIME AND WHO WERE PERMITTED TO KEEP THEIR WEAPONS, PLAN TO "ATTACK KABUL THIS WEEK." REPORTEDLY KABUL AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF AND WORRIED ABOUT THE REPORT.

D. ERMACORA DESCRIBED AS SATISFIED WITH VISIT: KABUL MEDIA CARRY DESPATCHES FROM VIENNA OF THE UNHRC SPECIAL RAPORTEUR ERMACORA'S AUGUST 18 PRESS CONFERENCE. THE REPORTS SAY THAT HE GAVE A POSITIVE EVALUATION OF HIS TRIP TO AFGHANISTAN AND QUOTE ERMACORA AS CALLING THE REGIME'S NATIONAL RECONCILIATION POLICY AS "A STEP FORWARD IN THE SEARCH FOR WAYS TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE AFGHANISTAN SITUATION."

E. NEW SOVIET TROOPS TO KANDAHAR: A KANDAHARI CLAIMS THAT NEW SOVIET TROOPS, FRESH FROM THE SOVIET UNION, WERE FLOWN INTO KANDAHAR AIRPORT IN JUNE-JULY. THE TROOPS ALLEGEDLY WERE IDENTIFIED AS "NEW" BY VITURE OF THEIR MINT-CONDITION WEAPONS.

F. CBW USE IN KANDAHAR: A KANDAHARI REPORTS THAT SOVIET FORCES EMPLOYED LETHAL CBW IN FIGHTING IN THE ARGANDAB AREA IN JUNE-JULY. THE SOVIETS REPORTEDLY TARGETED MUJAHIDIN TUNNEL COMPLEXES. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THERE WERE MUJAHIDIN FATALITIES.

G. POLITICAL RUMORS: AMONG THE 4 SUBSTANTIATED RUMORS ALFOAT IN KABUL THIS WEEK: BABRAK KARMAL WILL SOON GO TO WARSAW AS AMBASSADOR (5 PERCENT PROBABILITY); KESHTMAND WHO HAS BEEN IN MOSCOW (20 PERCENT PROBABILITY) IS IN POOR HEALTH WITH HEART PROBLEMS (20 PERCENT PROBABILITY); NEMATULLAH PAZHMAK WILL BE MADE PRIME MINISTER IN THE NEAR FUTURE (15 PERCENT PROBABILITY).

10. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. EALUM

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